

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6845**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 312

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 21, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 21, 2008

**SUBJECT:** County Executives.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Boots

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Moses

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 2nd House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill permits a county to reorganize its executive and legislative structure and powers so that all executive authority is exercised by a single elected county executive and all legislative and fiscal powers is exercised by the county council (as constituted under current law). The bill requires (1) the county executive to adopt an ordinance to reorganize the county executive and legislative powers; and (2) the reorganization to be approved by the voters of the county. It provides that such an ordinance may be adopted only in an even-numbered year.

It provides that if the county's voters vote in favor of the public question, the first single-member county executive would be elected at the second general election that is held after the general election at which the voters approve the reorganization. It also provides for transition from a three-member county executive to the single-member county executive.

The bill provides that if a county adopts a single county executive form of government, the county council rather than the county executive is responsible for redistricting the county council. (In Lake County, the county redistricting commission would continue to redistrict county council districts.) It provides that the only reason that county council districts may be changed after the first redistricting after a decennial census is to conform the districts to statutory requirements.

It makes technical and other changes to conform the law to the substantive changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) *County Commissioners:* The effect of the bill will depend on the voters adopting the public question and the decisions of the county council. If the public question is adopted, no current county executive or legislative responsibility is reduced or eliminated. The duties are reassigned from a three-member board of county commissioners to a single, elected county executive, which could reduce compensation costs. However, executive compensation is determined by the county fiscal body, and any cost savings will result from the decisions of the fiscal body. Officers are compensated from the county general fund.

**Background and Additional Details -**

In all counties, the board of county commissioners is the executive of the county. It makes various appointments, such as appointing a county resident and a representative of a financial institution to the county land valuation commission and appointing the local alcohol and tobacco commission. The board also performs duties and exercises powers concerning the issuance and payment of bonds of the county and the expenditure of the unexpended proceeds of those bonds. Other statutory and constitutional duties include operating charity farms or county homes in counties with a population greater than 235,000.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.